

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 02960 161350Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10
PM-05 NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 /070 W
-----042517 170322Z /15 S

R 161319Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5910
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02960

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TSPA, GW, CG, UR, US, UK, FR, CE
SUBJECT: OTRAG: SATELLITE STATION IN SRI LANKA?

REFS: (A) BONN 2767 (NOTAL); (B) BONN 2737 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO "TO THE POINT INTERNATIONAL," A WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE PUBLISHED IN BRUSSELS BUT WITH EDITORIAL OFFICES IN SOUTH AFRICA, OTRAG HAS ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT TO BUILD A SATELLITE STATION IN THAT COUNTRY. THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE LEFTIST PRESS IN SRI LANKA HAS CRITICIZED THE AGREEMENT AS A FRONT FOR A "VAST MILITARY SPYING NETWORK."

2. THE REPORT CONTINUES THAT THE SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT HAS STATED THAT THE SATELLITE STATION WILL BE USED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, SUCH AS THE DETECTION OF MINERAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 02960 161350Z

RESOURCES. THERE WAS NO OTHER INFORMATION PROVIDED.

3. FOR COLOMBO: OTRAG (ORBITAL TRANSPORT UND RAKETEN - AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT) IS A CONTROVERSIAL WEST GERMAN COMPANY, BASED IN STUTTGART, WHICH HAS LEASED A LARGE AREA OF ZAIRE AS A BASE FROM WHICH TO DEVELOP AND LAUNCH

CUT-RATE ROCKETS. (WE ARE POUCHING A COPY OF AN AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY" ARTICLE DATED SEPTEMBER 12, 1977, WHICH PROVIDES BACKGROUND ON THE COMMERCIAL ASPECTS.) THE FRG STATES THAT THERE IS NO OFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT WHATSOEVER WITH THE OTRAG ENTERPRISE. THE SOVIETS, HOWEVER, HAVE PROTESTED THAT OTRAG REPRESENTS A COVERT ATTEMPT BY THE GERMANS TO DEVELOP DELIVERY SYSTEMS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES IN ALLEGED VIOLATION OF POST-WAR AGREEMENTS. GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY DETAILS OR CONFIRMATION YOU COULD PROVIDE. MEEHAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN02960
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780072-1148
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780249/aaaabpej.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e237dbd5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BONN 2767, 78 BONN 2737
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3577856
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OTRAG: SATELLITE STATION IN SRI LANKA?
TAGS: PEPR, TSPA, GE, CG, UR, US, UK, FR, CE
To: STATE COLOMBO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e237dbd5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014